

This message is based on the book, "Can We Trust the Gospels?"  
by Mark D. Roberts

Contradictory: *mutually opposed or inconsistent*

Complementary: *combining in such a way as to enhance or  
emphasize the qualities of each other or another*

There are no \_\_\_\_\_ in the Gospels.

### Why are there variations in the Gospels?

- 1) The Gospel writers were \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) The \_\_\_\_\_  
(Hellenistic biographies).
- 3) The different \_\_\_\_\_.

Those who claim that the variations in the Gospels  
make them historically unreliable are guilty of

\_\_\_\_\_ ("an act of attributing  
a custom, event, or object to a period to which it does  
not belong").

ipsissima verba: *the very words*  
ipsissima vox: *the very voice*

To claim that the Gospel writers can't be trusted to tell  
the truth about Jesus because they were \_\_\_\_\_  
is like claiming that Holocaust survivors can't be trusted  
because they weren't \_\_\_\_\_ bystanders.

### A Summary of what the non-Christian historical written sources tell us about Jesus:

Jesus was a real man who lived in history. He was reportedly born  
of a virgin and had an earthly father who was a carpenter. He  
lived in Judea, in the region known as Palestine. He was wise and  
righteous. His teaching was so influential that He developed a  
large following of Jewish and Gentile disciples. He taught His  
disciples to live with the same virtue He exhibited, and His moral  
code was exceedingly high. But Jesus was more than a moral  
teacher: He possessed "magical powers" and had the ability to  
predict the future accurately. His supernatural acts and teachings  
persuaded many Jews to walk away from their beliefs. Jesus  
claimed to be God, and His disciples readily accepted this claim.  
The Jewish leadership ultimately brought charges against Jesus  
based on His actions and teachings. He was prosecuted and  
crucified under Pontius Pilate, during the reign of Tiberius Caesar.  
There was an earthquake and darkness at the point of the  
execution. Jesus's followers reported seeing Him resurrected three  
days after the crucifixion, however, and Jesus even showed them  
His wounds. His followers believed the resurrection proved Jesus  
was the Messiah. They adopted Jesus's moral teaching and lived  
their lives accordingly, holding to their belief in His deity, even  
though it meant they would suffer greatly at the hands of the  
Roman Empire. They were ultimately persecuted for their faith in  
Christ.

- Chapter 3 of "Forensic Faith" by J. Warner Wallace

"A historian who has been found trustworthy where he or she can  
be tested should be given the benefit of the doubt in cases where  
no tests are available."

- Craig Blomberg (on the geographical, political, and cultural  
accuracy of Luke's writings)



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Anything The Gospels  
Say About Jesus?  
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The geographical, political, and cultural details of the Gospels are \_\_\_\_\_.

**The 4 Requirements of New Testament Books:**

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) core Christian theology